4:Leix U-5 (no date)1941 RL1 Turkestan RL1

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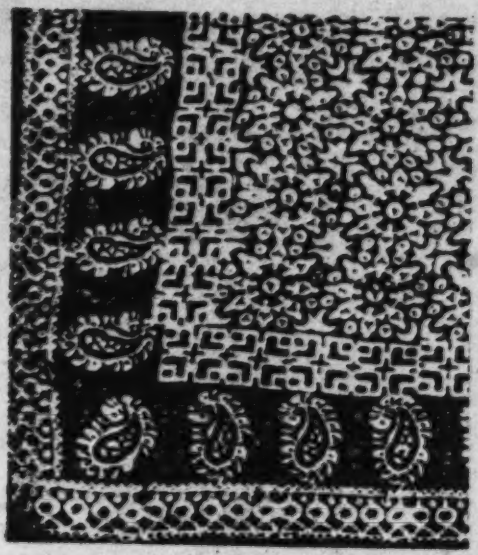

Part of a waist-cloth of Bokhara. In addition to other motives the cashmere palmette is seen. Printed silk fabric.

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ence between Sarts and Uzbegs may be regarded as obliterated. Fifteen years ago the name Sart was officially given up; since then the people who formerly bore that name have been known as Uzbegs, and the most important republic in Western Turkestan is called Uzbegistan.

In Eastern Turkestan these three peoples are represented by a few merchants only, parti-

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A fuller of Tashkent. The heavy wedge-like head of the mallet and the way in which the handle is mounted serve to increase its effect. Sepia drawing.

291 trousers. Unlike the corresponding garment in other Mohammedan countries, this smock reaches to the ground, thus also completely enveloping the wearer's body. Members of the wealthier classes frequently wear smocks made of silk, as this material is only forbidden to the men. The patterns are much the same as those

291 of the chalats. By way of headgear the women frequently wear a round flat cap. Very young girls usually go unveiled; they wear a tibeteika [302] very much like that of the man. The manner of dressing their hair is very attractive. It is worn in innumerable plaits into which black ribbons are worked, from the ends of which small silver bells are suspended.

As in all other Islamic countries only the women of the towns strictly observe the custom of veiling. When working in the fields the peasant-woman wears neither long cloak nor veil. When she goes to town, however, to sell her cotton at the market, she dons cloak and veil.

286 Throughout the centuries of Turkestan's history the textile crafts have maintained a considerable standard. That is natural enough as the country produces all the more important [234] textile fibres itself. Wool was indeed used but little in the manufacture of clothing, sheep being mainly bred for slaughter, as well as for the sake of their skin, which is known as "karakul". The best kind, the skin of unborn lambs, fetches a very high price, particularly in 248 certain colours. Silk and cotton growing have always been of great importance in Turkestan, and flourish to this day (see ill. page 1445). 1/1 The two principal kinds of cotton grown are Gossypium herbaceum and Gossypium hirsutum. In 1910 over 410,000 tons of cotton were grown on an area of about 940,000 acres. Silk growing was entirely in the hands of women. Its yields were always considerable, though no statistics are available.

1/1 [See cat 116, p 36 -- Analyst]

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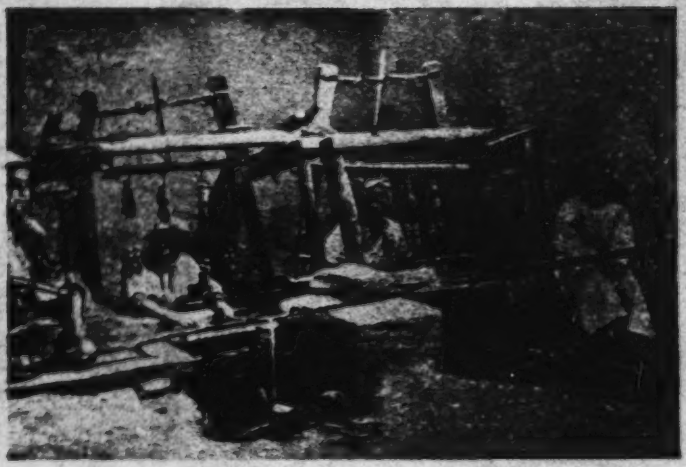

Weaver's workshop in Turkestan. The weaver is passing the shuttle through the shed which is formed on the further side of the batten.

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statistics are available. The best silk came on to the market in Bokhara and the towns of Ferghana; Khokand and Khojent were the main trading centres for both silk and cotton. Another important cotton market was Andishan. At the present day the breeding of silkworms and to an even greater extent the growing of cotton in Western Turkestan are promoted by the government in every possible way.

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In Turkestan fabrics are woven in narrow pieces only about twenty inches wide; these are then sewn together to make garments. The type of loom generally used in Western Turkestan (see ill. page 1446)[1] consists of a frame of four roughly hewn poles driven vertically into the ground. It is maintained in a state of equal tension by means of a rope fixed tightly above it. Breast-beam and warp-beam are slung in rollers at so short a distance from each other that very little of the fabric is visible. Unlike the weavers of other districts the craftsman of Turkestan passes the shuttle through the rear shed at the other side of the batten. In order to impart lustre, smoothness, and thickness to the fabric it is beaten on a wooden block with a heavy mallet (see ill. page 1446).[2] The rhythmical beats of the fuller's mallet are heard everywhere in the bazaars of Turkestan. The mallet used for fulling is shaped like a blunt wooden wedge. It has a short handle which is not fixed to the centre of the head, but close to the narrower striking surface. This increases the efficacy of the instrument, but it requires great strength to wield it.

1 [See p. 39-- Analyst]

2 [See p. 37--Analyst]

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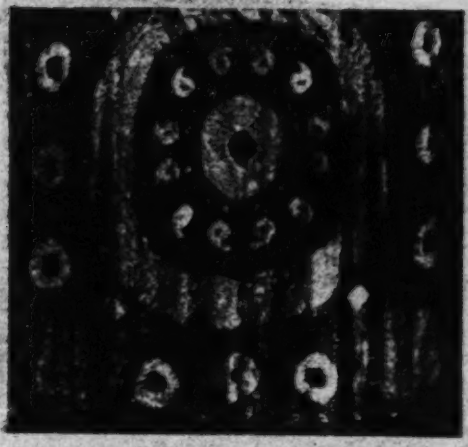

Part of a patterned chalat of Turkestan. The patterns are produced by winding threads tightly round parts of the fabric before dyeing it.

In Eastern Turkestan the ethnologist and archaeologist Albert Le Coq found a much more primitive weaver's craft than in the western region. In the manner common in India the weaver sits in a pit across which the warp-threads are stretched horizontally. Le Coq also observed board-weaving, which is practised also in Western Turkestan in the making of tape-like fabrics (see ill. below). This technique was familiar to the Ancient Egyptians; as practised in Turkestan it is, however, simpler. The boards or cards which are used to form the shed are square, and have a hole in each corner, through which the thread is

4: Leix U-S (no date) 1961 RL1 Turkestan RL1

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Board-weaving in Eastern Turkestan. Unlike the corresponding instruments used in Ancient Egypt, the boards or cards through which the weft is passed have only four corners. After Le Coq.

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286 passed. As the richness of the pattern depends on the combinations which result from turning the cards, the patterns or fabrics made in Turkestan show much less variety than those of Ancient Egypt.

286 294 From the earliest times dyeing in Turkestan has not only been a craft, but a highly developed art. In that country, as everywhere in Asia, patterns and ornaments are to a large extent produced by dyeing rather than by weaving. It must, however, be said, that in Turkestan the dyer's art never reached the same high standard of excellence that is found in India or Indonesia.

The simplest technique is that adopted in dyeing textiles blue for women's clothes. For this purpose indigo is used. The material is tightly rolled into bundles, and at certain intervals is wound round with the threads which prevent the dye from penetrating the fibre in these places. It is a matter of course that the patterns produced by this technique are comparatively simple. The ornaments consist of large circles, stripes, and spots. In addition to blue a very delicate red and also yellow are popular colours (see ill. page 1447).* In the streets of towns and villages in Turkestan one often sees such bundles of cloth, usually "mesru" and silk, hung up between two trees to dry. More complicated patterns, which are made up of small individual elements and which make the fabric appear "flamed", are dyed according to the ikat method. As far as is known only the warp-ikat technique is employed. The ikat patterns of Turkestan are geometrical, and even the more complicated

*[Cat. 116, p. 41 --Analyst]

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Man from Bokhara wearing a chalat made according to the ikat technique. The threads are dyed before weaving.

286 ones which are made in Ferghana (see ill.
294 below) and the neighbouring districts of East-
ern Turkestan are not nearly so rich and so
vivid as Indian and Indonesian ikat patterns.
386 With the exception of indigo, which was
imported from India, all the dyestuffs used in

Chalat pattern from the Ferghana district produced by the ikat method.

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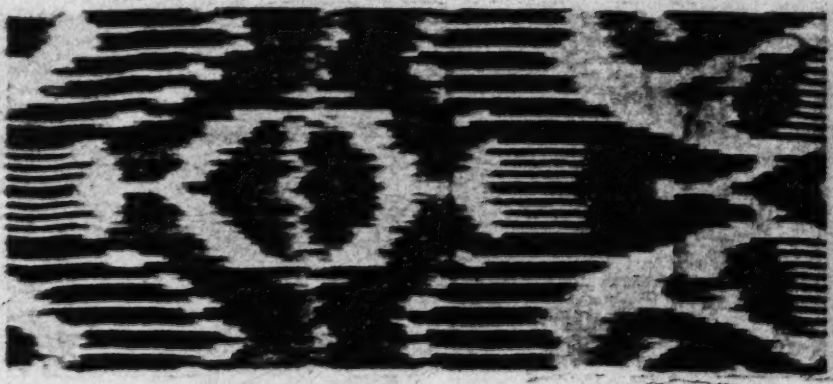

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236 The most valuable textile material which the Turkomans and Kirghiz use, is that which their herds provide. A camel yields twenty or thirty pounds of wool, which is simply plucked out when the animals shed their winter coats; only neck, throat, and chin have to be shorn. Goats yield two to three pounds of wool once a year, sheep are shorn twice a year, the winter wool amounting to about 10 lbs, the summer crop to about 3 lbs.

286 Wool which is designed for weaving is first carded by the women by means of a comb-like instrument, and is then spun by hand, the spindle being rolled rapidly along the spinner's thigh, a method also common in India. The spindle used by the Turkoman women has a whorl attached to its upper end, that of the Kirghiz women has the whorl at the lower end. The spun thread is braided into cords, or woven into belts, ribbons or broad bands, and made into horses' harness. As everywhere in East and West Turkestan narrow, patterned ribbons are made by board-weaving. At this task two women work simultaneously, one of them turning the boards, the other passing the threads through the shed.

The two most interesting textile techniques of the nomads of Turkestan are without doubt the felting of unspun wool and the manufacture of textiles in the manner of carpet knotting. Both of these are discussed in the following article.7

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7[cat. 116, pp. 65-81--Analyst]

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